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USSR Sends Farm Machines to Bulgaria;
Achievements of the Central Cooperative Federation
Vecherni Novini, Sofia, 25 Sept 1951

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USSR SENDS FARM MACHINES TO BULGARIA -- Sofia, Vecherni
Novini, 25 September 1951

The socialist transformation of the Bulgarian village is one of the most important objectives of the Bulgarian people during the transitional period. From being small-scale, dispersed and not very profitable, Bulgarian agriculture has become extensive, mechanized and highly profitable. It is becoming the medium for achieving a prosperous life for millions of peasants who have suffered for ages from foreign exploitation, lack of means, and a lack of sufficient technical knowledge.

The Bulgarian village is scoring large successes on the road to large-scale agriculture. More than 55 percent of individual farms and almost half of the arable land are included in farm workers' cooperatives. This enormous growth in the number of large farms would have been to no avail if modern technical methods of cultivation had not been introduced.

The introduction of extensive mechanization of agriculture in Bulgaria is accomplished mainly through machine tractor stations these vanguards of socialism in the village. The machine tractor stations are the industrial and power foundations of Bulgarian agriculture. They are among the most important cells in the new socialist structure of Bulgarian agriculture and on their activity depends to a large extent the results of the majority of agricultural endeavors.

✓ In a very short period of time, before the beginning of the current year, the number of machine tractor stations in Bulgaria reached 95. During 1951 another 20 stations were established, and now their number totals 115.

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Bulgarian machine tractor stations have at their disposal a huge aggregate of machinery. They are in a position to fulfill the orders of the Party and to satisfy scientific requirements for deep and proper plowing, speedy sowing and harvesting of plots under cultivation, and for gathering the crop efficiently and on time.

✓ At the time of the purchase of farm machines, Bulgarian machine tractor stations were allotted 3,850 tractors, 3,750 threshing machines, and 1,600 tractor-drawn plows, or 80 percent of the total aggregate of machinery in the country.

✓ Towards the middle of last year the machine tractor stations already possessed 6,089 tractors. The new influx of tractors came from the great Soviet Union. The plan for delivery of farm machines from the USSR have been fulfilled by 100 percent since 1947.

✓ In 1951 alone, Bulgaria received from the Soviet Union 220 automotive combines, 330 "Stalinets-6" combines, 1,200 tractors, 200 tractor-drawn plows, 300 tractor husking machines, 200 binders, 110 mobile truck-repair shops, 30 tank trucks, 10 tree planting machines, etc.

As can be readily seen, the increase in the stock of farm machines for Bulgarian agriculture would have been impossible without the generous and speedy assistance of the brotherly Soviet Union. But the assistance extended to Bulgarian agriculture by the USSR does not consist only in the direct deliveries of farm machines. The invaluable assistance which has been extended to Bulgaria in building a domestic machine-building industry enables the country to manufacture on her own, and to deliver a large number of farm machines to Bulgarian agriculture.

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Soviet assistance in increasing the fertility of Bulgarian land has also been enormous. Bulgaria owes the irrigation systems in the Belen-Nikopol, Svishtov and Brushlyan valleys solely to the invaluable aid of the Soviet Union. The construction of her biggest plant, the "Stalin" Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant (which will supply Bulgarian agriculture with 70,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizers yearly) Bulgaria also owes to the assistance of the great country where socialism was founded.

Besides the assistance that the Soviet Union has given Bulgarian agriculture its rich experience in that field. Soviet specialists are constantly arriving in Bulgaria, helping to raise the level of the work of machine tractor stations, instructing members of farm workers' cooperatives in the new progressive methods of land cultivation and discovering the rich potentials of the Bulgarian soil, and the wealth hidden in the strong arms of the industrious Bulgarian peasant.

Bulgarian agriculture is sprogressing rapidly. A proof of that is this year's rich crop. Bulgarian agriculture is rapidly marching towards socialism and is accepting with gratitude the all-around and selfless aid which it is constantly receiving from the great Soviet Union and personally receiving from the great leader of progressive humanity, the leader and teacher of Bulgaria, Comrade Stalin.

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ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CENTRAL COOPERATIVE FEDERATION -- Sofia,
Vecherni Novini, 25 September 1951

✓ The Central Cooperative Federation is one of the largest commercial organizations in Bulgaria. It encompasses 90 rayon cooperative federations, consisting of 3,500 village consumers' cooperatives (general) and 75 city consumers' cooperatives (Narkoopi -- People's Cooperatives) with a total membership of 1,300,000 cooperators.

✓ The principal objectives of the Central Cooperative Federation are as follows: to insure a better supply to the urban and rural working population through the extensive commercial network of its rayon cooperative federations and general cooperatives, together with the state commercial enterprises; to supply the rural population with industrial goods; and finally to buy up a number of agricultural products and raw materials as well as to process some of them. In that respect great achievements have been made during recent years. The turnover of goods of cooperatives in 1950 was increased by 45 percent in comparison with the turnover in 1949. From the beginning of 1950 to 30 June 1951 alone, more than 2,000 modern stores were opened. Until 9 September 1944, a mere 4,213 cooperative stores were in existence in the entire country, but their number has increased very rapidly; by October 1949 it reached 8,783, and at the present time the cooperatives have 16,146 retail enterprises.

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✓The decree of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party for improving trade gave a new large impetus to the development of cooperative trade, especially in the villages. More than 420 stores have been opened, and about 500 stores have been remodeled and turned into model establishments. The stores of a large number of cooperatives, such as the ones at Vinitsa (Purvomay Okoliya), Izvorovo (Chirpan Okoliya), Krichim (Plovdiv Okoliya), Slavotin, (Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya), Chepelare (Asenovgrad Okoliya), Vulchi Dol (Provadiya Okoliya), and other, can compete with many city stores as to their facilities. The number of varieties of goods in the stores of general cooperatives has been increased on an average from 400 to 700, and certain rayon cooperative federations and cooperatives have surpassed the 1,000 mark. In the Rayon Cooperative Federation at Asenovgrad the number of varieties of goods was increased to 1,426 and in the Rayon Cooperative Federation at Orudova to 1,045. One of the most thoroughly consolidated and best organized cooperatives is the "Nikolka" general cooperative at Chepelare (Asenovgrad Okoliya), which has a membership of 1,600 persons -- the majority of the adult inhabitants of the village. The cooperative has organized 2 model stores which are very much like city Narkoops; it operates 5 restaurants, bakeries, a beer bottling installation, etc. In the same category can be put the cooperatives at Vurbovka (Pavlikeni Okoliya), Kirilovo (Nova Zagora Okoliya), Kurtovo Konare

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(Plovdiv Okoliya), and others.

✓ The elimination of the rationing system and the establishment of free trade in industrial goods enabled the cooperative stores in villages to obtain stocks of different varieties and high quality goods, and thus to satisfy more fully the needs of the working people for everything they need; in many places the plan for the turnover of goods has been overfulfilled.

✓ Another exceptionally important and large economic objective of cooperative trade is to buy up a considerable part of the production of Bulgarian agriculture, either as state deliveries (milk, lard, meat, wool, cotton, hay, etc) or to purchase agricultural surpluses directly from the producer at free prices.

omit Through rayon cooperative federations the Central Cooperative Federation is also performing an extensive cultural and educational service by organizing public mass meetings and lectures, publishing pamphlets, and supporting traveling cinemas which constantly tour the villages and show selected films, etc.

omit Socialist competition has been organized to introduce socialist working methods among the different rayon cooperative federations and general cooperatives, and courses have been organized to increase the qualifications of the personnel of these cooperatives and train young personnel.

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omit In executing government orders, the cooperatives have considerably enlarged and improved mobile trade. During the campaign to bring in the harvest in the grain regions, mobile cooperative stores have posted themselves near threshing machines, at collection centers, fairs, and such places, supplying the harvesters and other workers in the field with all necessary goods. With this activity of theirs the cooperatives have confirmed the popular character of their commercial endeavors by being at all times at the service of the working people.

omit In its activity the Central Cooperative Federation is perforce faced with the occurrence of a number of weaknesses, against which it has been waging a constant struggle. But the great expansion of its commercial network and its turnover of goods clearly show that it is an important factor in the development of a large socialist trade in the country.

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